

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An expandable intraluminal stent, comprising:
a plurality of rings aligned along a common axis to form a tubular shape;
wherein each ring includes a plurality of cells, each cell being defined by at least two V struts of different amplitudes that are aligned in phase and nested within one another, wherein each of said V struts is defined by two arm segments converging at one end to define a first vertex that is otherwise unattached to any other stent structure and diverging at the opposite end such that each defines a second vertex with an arm segment of a V strut with which it is nested, and wherein each second vertex is attached to a second vertex of an adjacent cell by a link [and joined at opposite ends of the V struts forming ends of the cell which are located where the opposite ends of the V struts are joined, wherein each V strut defines a peak, and wherein each such peak is unattached to any other peak]; and

a connecting element [joining the plurality of rings by connecting the end of the cell of one ring to the end of the cell] extending between a link between adjacent cells in one ring with a link between adjacent cells of an adjacent ring.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 1, wherein the [V struts include] arm segments are curved [struts].

4. (canceled)

5. (withdrawn) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 1, wherein at least one of the vertices of a triangular cell includes a radius.

6. (currently amended) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 1, wherein the connecting element [includes a longitudinal component] is oriented generally parallel to the common axis.

7. (withdrawn) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 1, wherein the stent includes a plurality of connecting elements aligned in phase between rings.

8. (original) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 1, wherein the stent includes a plurality of connecting elements aligned out of phase between rings.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) An expandable intraluminal stent, comprising:
a plurality of rings aligned along a common axis to form a tubular shape;
wherein each ring includes a plurality of cells;
wherein each cell is formed from at least two nested V struts of differing amplitudes converging from common points to define peaks, wherein said common points of adjacent cells are linked by valleys, and wherein said peaks of each cell are free to shift relative one another during expansion of said stent [having respective large angle vertices that are aligned in phase with opposite ends joined to form small angle vertices, wherein each V strut vertex defines a peak, and wherein each such peak is unattached to any other peak]; and
a connecting element extending between valleys of [joining] adjacent rings[, wherein the connecting element coincides with at least one of the small angle vertices].

11. (canceled)

12. (original) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 10, wherein the stent includes a superelastic metallic alloy and is self-expanding.

13. (original) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 10, wherein the stent includes a low elasticity metal and the stent is balloon expandable.

14. (currently amended) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 10, wherein [at least one of the vertices of the cell] said valley is curved.

15. (withdrawn) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 10, wherein at least one of the joined small angle vertices includes a radius.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 10, wherein [there are] a plurality of [the longitudinal] connecting elements extend between valleys of adjacent rings and adjacent connecting elements are separated by at least two cells.

18. (withdrawn) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 10, wherein the triangular cells in one ring is staggered from the triangular cells in an adjacent ring.

19. (original) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 10, wherein the V struts have curved segments.

20-32 (canceled)

33. (withdrawn) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 31, wherein at least one of the connecting elements extends from a peak of a ring to a peak of an adjacent ring.

34. (currently amended) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 1 [31], wherein at least one of the [small angle] second vertices includes increased mass.

35. (currently amended) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 1 [31], wherein at least one of the [large angle] first vertices includes increased mass.

36. (withdrawn) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 31, wherein at least one of the large angle vertices includes a radius.

37. (currently amended) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 1, wherein the [ends of the cells are circumferential ends] links are curved.

38. (previously presented) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 10, wherein the cells are triangular upon stent expansion.

39. (currently amended) The expandable intraluminal stent of claim 1 [10], wherein the [tapering ends are angular ends] cells are triangular upon stent expansion.

40. (canceled)